Power-cuts in Delhi

* 260. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that vast area of Delhi experienced blackout for about seven hours from 6.00 AM to 1.00 PM and then till night, off and on, on the 6th, 8th and 11 th February, 2008 for long hours;

if so, the reasons therefor;

the number of serious power breakdowns for two hours and more, that occurred in Delhi during 2007 and so far, this year;

whether performance of the distribution companies has been evaluated in the light of these serious breakdowns; and

if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) As reported by Govt, of Delhi, the following breakdowns occurred on 6th 8th and 11th Feb. 2008 in Delhi.

On 6th February, 2008, interruptions started at 1.50 A.M. and normalcy was restored at 11.00 A.M. Twenty six (26) lines of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. in the Northern Grid tripped and six (6) lines of Delhi Transco Limited (DTL) also tripped due to foggy weather coupled with high pollution levels. Load to the tune of 270-800 MW was affected during the period of interruption.

On 8th February, 2008 no disruption in power supply from the Grid has been reported by the Government of Delhi.

On 11th February, 2008, interruptions of power supply was reported from West Delhi from8.41 P.M. l'l .25 P.M. Approximately 200 MWofload was affected due to failure of a 400/ 220 kV Power Transformer (315 MVA) at Bamnauli, during above period.

Fog coupled with high pollution and paucity of winter rain experienced in Northern Region have been the main reasons behind tripping of transmission lines, resulting in interruption in power supply.

The number of days on which power breakdowns for two hours and more occurred in Delhi during 2007 and so far this year, as reported by the Delhi Transco Limited, are given below:

Month	Number of days in the month
January,2007	2
Febury,2007	3
October,2007	1
December,2007	2
January,2008	2
February,2008	7
March,2008(upto12th)	3

(d) and"(e) This falls within the purview of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) under the Electricity Act, 2003.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

FPIs in Assam

1707. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

whether there is acute shortage of food processing units in Assam;

whether some of the units, which were set up a long back, are closed down due to mismanagement and have incurred heavy losses, especially those which were in the co-operative sector like Howly Marketing Sambay Samiti;

whether Government would give financial assistance to the State/co-operatives to revive those units;

the details of the proposals received for setting up new units in the State; and

the detail of amount earmarked under various schemes therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) As food processing industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors, information on food processing industries established in the country, their present status including information on units that have been closed down in the States are not Centrally maintained in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

The Ministry has no scheme for revival of closed down units and hence the question of earmarking funds for the same does not arise. However, for promotion and development of food processing industries and to enhance their financial viability, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing a Plan Scheme for Technology upgradation/ Modernization/Establishment of food processing units. Under the above scheme, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. Under the Mini Mission IV of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim, J & K, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, assistance at still higher rates i.e. @ 50% upto Rs. 4 crores for setting up of new food processing units and upto Rs. 1 crore for upgradat ion/modernization of existing units is available industries involved in processing of horticultural produce.

During the Tenth Plan period 67 proposals were received from Assam for Setting up/ Modernization/Technology Upgradation of Food Processing units of which 35 proposals with a total grant of Rs. 2188.09 lakhs have been aproved so far. The units approved so far included the sectors of poultry processing, grain milling, fruits and vegetable processing, oil refining, dairy processing, bakery and consumer products.